



## IMAGE 1

**Barbara Frey**

***Let's Go Teapot #21* (2005)**

**Porcelain**

Barbara Frey's work is an example of meticulous attention to every detail within her ceramic teapots, which also demonstrate a natural harmony in design, surface, and material. "I am interested in the fusion of recognizable form with the vocabulary of the teapot, most recently in a series of boat teapots composed of porcelain stones created in homage to the smooth, rounded stones I find on the shores of Lake Ontario. I am interested in creating what might be called an intensified realism. My wish is that the aftereffect of my work will be an awareness of dualism, the condition wherein an object can be simultaneously more than one thing."

### WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this work of art.
- Is this a teapot? Why or why not? What do you see that makes you say that?
- What **forms** can you find in this work? What can you say about the **texture** of this work?
- What elements in this work of art remind you of elements that you might find in nature? What are these elements?
- What materials do you think were used to create this work of art? What is the **medium**? What do you see that makes you say that?

### KEY TERMS

- **Form:** Form, along with shape, defines objects in space. Form has depth as well as width and height.
- **Medium:** The medium is the material an artist uses to make his or her artwork, i.e. paint, charcoal, or photography.
- **Porcelain:** Ceramicware or the clay from which it is made; fired ware is very hard, white, and translucent where thin; originated in China.
- **Texture:** The feel and appearance of a surface, such as hard, soft, rough, smooth, hairy, leathery, sharp, etc.



## IMAGE 2

**Richard Notkin**

***Stacked Crates Teapot (Variation #9) (2005)***

**Stoneware**

Richard Notkin uses his artwork as an extension of his conscience, believing that art should promote social activism. For over 10 years, he has used the teapot format to question foreign policy around the world as well as the individual's struggle with the ills of society. The symbolic content of his sculptures is often contentious and politically explosive: mushroom clouds, army camouflage, armor plating, radiation signs, and crude-oil barrels. The very familiarity of the teapot form gives Notkin's work much of its edge, luring observers with its comforting intimacy before confronting them with a powerful and often painful message.

### WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this work of art.
- What types of **shapes** can you find in this work? What types of **lines** can you find in this work?
- What objects can you identify in this work? Where is the lid to the teapot? Where is the handle? Where is the spout? What objects did the artist use to create the lid, handle, and spout?
- What materials do you think were used to create this work of art? What is the **medium**? What do you see that makes you say that?

### KEY TERMS

- **Line:** A line is an identifiable path created by a point moving in space. It is one-dimensional and can vary in width, direction, and length. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, straight or curved, thick or thin.
- **Medium:** The medium is the material an artist uses to make his or her artwork, i.e. paint, charcoal, or photography.
- **Shape:** Shape, along with form, defines objects in space. Shapes have two dimensions, height and width, and are usually defined by lines.



### IMAGE 3

**Rollie Younger**

***Bridge Tea* (2006)**

**Stoneware and cone 5 black/bronze glaze**

Rollie Younger creates his industrial teapots in a place where all the pressure of the industrial world is very far removed from daily life. He is famous for his “boiler teapots,” and he pays close attention to the symbols that read as metal, such as rivets, banding, and welding marks. Each teapot has a condenser-like shape on the spout. The cylinders are wheel thrown and the handles and spouts are extruded, or created by forcing the clay through a metal dye. The cylinders are assembled and then the handles are added, followed by the bridges. Welding marks are made at each point of connection and rivets are applied last. To pique the interest of the viewer, Younger attaches pressure gauges and copper fittings to certain pieces. The teapots reflect the personality of a culture, the pressure of industrial life where breaks are short and surroundings efficient. However, a colorful glaze is a surprise inside Younger’s pots, a contrast to their machinelike exteriors, reflecting the beauty and spirit inside us all.

#### WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this work of art.
- What **forms** can you find in this work? What can you say about the **texture** of this work?
- Does this teapot remind you of another type of object? If so, what object? What elements in this teapot bring to mind this other object or type of object?
- What materials do you think were used to create this work of art? What is the **medium**? What do you see that makes you say that?

#### KEY TERMS

- **Form:** Form, along with shape, defines objects in space. Form has depth as well as width and height.
- **Glaze:** A glasslike coating that melts and bonds with clay when heated to a high temperature.
- **Medium:** The medium is the material an artist uses to make his or her artwork, i.e. paint, charcoal, or photography.
- **Stoneware:** A type of clay or ware made from that clay that is fired at a high temperature, making it water impermeable but not translucent.
- **Texture:** The feel and appearance of a surface, such as hard, soft, rough, smooth, hairy, leathery, sharp, etc.





## IMAGE 4

**Louis Marak**

***Ringed Finger Teapot* (2001)**

**Earthenware**

Louis Marak is known for his sculptural optical illusions. He employs *trompe l'oeil*, which translates roughly “to fool the eye,” by making a two-dimensional surface look like a real, fully dimensional landscape, still life, or person. His work involves drawing, painting, and sculpting; all mediums he enjoys. The pieces are built with clay, but they start as drawings, and the surfaces are painted. While the pieces are sculptural, the two-dimensional surfaces are as important as the three-dimensional elements. He likes to juxtapose elements in illogical ways, to play with perspective and illusion, and “to pose questions rather than provide answers.” He makes teapot sculptures that are fun to look at and humorous, yet detailed, precise, and flawless.

### WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this work of art.
- What **colors** can you find in this work? What **forms** can you find in this work?
- What types of art-making techniques do you think the artist used to create this teapot, i.e. drawing, painting, sculpting, etc.?
- Where are the handle and the spout on this teapot? What are the handle and spout meant to resemble?
- What materials do you think were used to create this work of art? What is the **medium**? What do you see that makes you say that?

### KEY TERMS

- **Color:** Light reflected off objects. Color has three main characteristics: hue (red, green, blue, etc.), value (how light or dark it is), and intensity (how bright or dull it is).
- **Earthenware:** A reddish clay that hardens at relatively low kiln temperatures, is somewhat porous, and is often used for plates and bowls.
- **Form:** Form, along with shape, defines objects in space. Form has depth as well as width and height.
- **Medium:** The medium is the material an artist uses to make his or her artwork, i.e. paint, charcoal, or photography.
- ***Trompe l'oeil* (pronounced *trômp loi*):** A technique involving extremely realistic imagery in order to create the optical illusion that the depicted objects really exist; objects are rendered in extremely fine detail emphasizing the illusion of tactile and spatial qualities.





## IMAGE 5

**Claudia Tarantino**

***Figs and An Orange Twist* (2004)**

**Porcelain, underglaze, and china paint**

Claudia Tarantino works exclusively in porcelain, making small sculptural/functional pieces, lusciously colored with underglazes and china paints. Organic forms such as vegetables and fruit have provided teapot makers with endless inspiration. “The complexity of nature and the artistry in the natural world inspire my work. Ripe fruit and vegetables, bursting with sweetness and nutrition, are images understood universally as valuable. Organic life faithfully reproducing from seed to fruit to seed to fruit acts as a metaphor for human growth and evolution. I try to infuse my pieces with an internal energy, that brief moment when the fruit or vegetable is just right, at its prime, ready to be eaten, when the flower is at its fullest.”

### WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this work of art.
- What objects can you identify in this work? Where is the lid to the teapot? Where is the handle? Where is the spout? What objects did the artist use to create the lid, handle, and spout?
- What materials do you think were used to create this work of art? What is the **medium**? What do you see that makes you say that?

### KEY TERMS

- **Medium:** The medium is the material an artist uses to make his or her artwork, i.e. paint, charcoal, or photography.
- **Porcelain:** Ceramic-ware or the clay from which it is made; fired ware is very hard, white, and translucent where thin; originated in China.
- **Underglaze:** Any coloring material used under a glaze, applied to greenware and then bisque-fired.



## IMAGE 6

**Joan Takayama-Ogawa**  
***Tulipomania Teapot* (2005)**  
**Ceramic**

As a third-generation Japanese American, Takayama-Ogawa continues to redefine her link to an ancient culture and customs, while commenting on current social and environmental conditions. The qualities within Japanese art and its philosophical formal traditions have had a substantial influence on her and have nourished her spirited ceramics. Her *Tulipomania* teapots contain exterior and interior interpretations. With their cup-shaped flowers and intense array of colors, tulips create forms that easily transform into teapots. The tulip serves as the vessel, with branch-shaped spout and handle attached to the tulip container. The lid provides hints of what might be inside the teapot, with dice and tulips forming the knob, indicating speculation and gambling. Inside the tulip teapot, the volume is filled with U.S. stock market imagery. The rim holding the lid in place serves as a stock market ticker showing ticker symbols of speculative stocks. Inside the teapot, figures of bulls, bears, pigs, and ticker symbols fill the volume. Metaphorically, the teapot could pour imagery of the U.S. stock market mania.

### WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- Describe this work of art.
- What **shapes**, patterns, and **colors** can you find in this work? What can you say about the **texture** of this work?
- Where is the lid to the teapot? Where is the handle? Where is the spout?
- What materials do you think were used to create this work of art? What is the **medium**? What do you see that makes you say that?

### KEY TERMS

- **Color:** Light reflected off objects. Color has three main characteristics: hue (red, green, blue, etc.), value (how light or dark it is), and intensity (how bright or dull it is).
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